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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	DOCUMENT NUMBER	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (if Appropriate)
AR	2003/0130664	7/2003	Boucher et al.			
↑	4,205,683	6/1980	O'Neill			
	6,248,110	6/2001	Reiley et al.			
	6,280,456	8/2001	Scribner et al.			
AR	6,440,138	8/2002	Reiley et al.			

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	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	Class	Subclass	Translation Yes No
AR	WO 00/09024	2/2000	PCT			
↑	WO 97/28840	8/1997	PCT			
↓	WO 98/56301	12/1998	PCT			
AR	WO 99/62416	12/1999	PCT			

OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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Examiner Initial	DOCUMENT NUMBER	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (if Appropriate)
AL	2002/0010472	24 Jan 02	Kuslich et al.			
↑	2002/0032447	14 Mar 02	Weikel et al.			
	2002/0099385	25 Jul 02	Ralph et al.			
	5,108,404	28 Apr 92	Scholten et al.			
	5,116,305	26 May 92	Milder et al.			
	5,176,683	05 Jan 93	Kimsey et al.			
	5,792,044	11 Aug 98	Foley et al.			
	5,827,289	27 Oct 98	Reiley et al.			
	5,849,014	15 Dec 98	Mastrorio et al.			
↓	5,865,728	02 Feb 99	Moll et al.			
AL	5,961,499	05 Oct 99	Bonutti et al.			

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DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	Class	Subclass	Translation Yes No

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EXAMINER <i>Anna Maria Ramano</i>	DATE CONSIDERED <i>8/25/04</i>
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	DOCUMENT NUMBER	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (if Appropriate)
AR	5,972,015	26 Oct 99	Scribner et al.			
↑	6,036,711	14 Mar 00	Mozdzierz et al.			
	6,048,346	11 Apr 00	Reiley et al.			
	6,066,154	23 May 00	Reiley et al.			
	6,582,446	24 Jun 93	Marchosky			
AR	6,607,544	19 Aug 03	Boucher et al.			

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		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	Class	Subclass	Translation Yes No

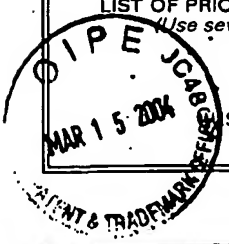
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Examiner Initial	DOCUMENT NUMBER	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (If Appropriate)
AL	5,545,136	8/1996	Berger			
AL	2003/0050702	3/2003	Berger			

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